Research Assistant  
Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines and the Faculty of Education

The Simon Fraser University (SFU) Institute for the Study of Teaching and Learning in the Disciplines (ISTLD) invites applications for a Research Assistant appointment for the Teaching and Learning Development Grant project Integrating Indigenous Perspectives into Literacy Methods Courses to begin May 1, 2017 or earlier.

Description of Project:

In 2015, the new British Columbia K-9 curriculum was implemented with a focus on integrating Aboriginal perspectives into the curriculum in thoughtful and meaningful ways. This includes an emphasis on exploring the histories, experiences, values and knowledge associated with Aboriginal ways of life (Deer, 2013, p. 177). The new curriculum is designed to incorporate more Aboriginal content and culture for the purposes of immersing pupils in Aboriginal perspectives from an early age and to develop a foundation of empathy and respect. As a result, teacher preparation programs have been called on to rethink the ways in which they prepare future teachers. Student teachers must be prepared to not only understand the new BC curriculum but to also engage with the curriculum in an authentic way.

My intention for this study is to bring attention to Indigenous perspectives into my teaching of EDUC 472 Designs for Learning: Elementary Language Arts, which is part of the PDP teacher certification program at SFU. In the Summer 2017 term I will be teaching two sections of EDUC 472. Each section of this course typically has 30 students. To bring attention to Indigenous perspectives and ways of being three distinct components will be integrated into the curriculum: guest lecture by an Aboriginal Knowledge Keeper; critical reading of a music album; and 3-5 seminal scholarly articles of Indigenous education.

Research assistant responsibilities

The Research Assistant’s responsibilities will include but are not limited to providing research assistant on the research study, including compiling literature reviews; editing and proofreading documents for internal/external publication; and aiding in the qualitative analysis process. Additionally, the RA may be required to provide some administrative support (scanning, copying). Other responsibilities may include:

- Supporting dissemination of project findings within and beyond SFU;
- Assisting with data entry and evaluation related to TLDG projects’ progress/tracking;
- Attending team meetings

Required qualifications and skills:

- Currently enrolled in a graduate program at SFU (MA or PhD only);
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including strong oral and written communication skills;
- Experience with qualitative data analyses;
- Experience with instrument design (rubrics, interview protocols, observation protocols/checklists, self-reflection tools);
- Ability to undertake literature reviews in disciplines beyond own research area;
- Skilled in use of Microsoft Office suite.

Rate of pay: $20 - $25/hr (incl. vacation and statutory holiday pay, no medical or dental benefits) - based on experience, qualifications and degree program (MA or PhD). Total appointment hours: 190.

To Apply:

Applicants should submit: (1) a 1-page cover letter structured to address the qualifications, skills, and role responsibilities as listed above, and (2) a 1-2 page CV.

These two items should be organized as one PDF attachment and addressed to Pooja Dharamshi, and emailed to Pooja_Dharamshi@sfu.ca.

Complete applications received by April 25, 2017 are assured of full consideration. All applications are appreciated for this position; however, only short-listed applicants will be contacted.